



**CALIFORNIA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS  
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**Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Budget Proposals  
Hits Asian & Pacific Islander Communities**

Sacramento, CA – Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger released his final proposed budget for the 2010 – 2011 Fiscal Year. According to the California Budget Project, 34% of the Governor's \$8.5 billion in proposed budget cuts target health and human service programs that many Asian & Pacific Islanders (API) depend on to survive.

"I am very concerned about the dismantling of California's social safety net, and I'm particularly concerned about the Governor's constant efforts to dismantle programs that will destroy the sustainability of many immigrant families in California," commented Assemblymember Warren Furutani (D – South LA County), Chair of the API Legislative Caucus, "Many immigrant families depend on assistance from the State in order to work towards a better life; otherwise, they will be left destitute."

The Governor's budget proposes the full elimination of programs that provide assistance to *legal immigrants* who have been in the United States for five years or less:

**Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)** – CAPI provides assistance to seniors and persons with disabilities who are legal immigrants. Many of these immigrants rely on CAPI to buy clothing, medicine, and primarily to pay for housing. According to a 2002 report by the California Department of Social Services, 98% of CAPI recipients are 65 years and older and 80% of the recipients are Asian Pacific Islanders.

**California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)** - CFAP provides food coupons to legal immigrants. Cutting this program will take food away off the table of immigrant families, including families with children who are U.S. citizens.

**California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)** - The Governor proposes the elimination of the Recent Non-Citizen Entrants program in CalWORKs which provides cash assistance, job training and child care to low-income families. Dismantling this program will drive up unemployment, and force families working towards a sustainable life to depend solely on human services.

**Medi-Cal** – The Governor proposes to eliminate access to the full-scope of Medi-Cal for legal immigrants who have been in the United States for 5 years or less. Medi-Cal provides needed health care services for low-income individuals including families with children, seniors, persons with disabilities. Without this program, more families will be left uninsured - forcing them to depend on emergency hospital services.

"Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is making a risky gamble in his budget proposal by depending on unreliable federal funds to fill the budget deficit," continued Assemblymember Warren Furutani, "The most vulnerable of the Asian and Pacific Islander community shouldn't have to put up their safety net as poker chips during this year's budget discussion."

The Governor's budget proposal depends on \$6.9 billion from the federal government to help fill the budget deficit. If federal funds are not secured, a "trigger" will occur that will involve \$4.6 billion in cuts to programs important to the API community including the full elimination of CalWORKs, reduced Medi-cal eligibility to the bare minimum and the elimination of the remaining optional benefits, the elimination of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), and the elimination of the Healthy Families program, among many others.

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